

## Wind Turbine Project Status:

As of October 6, 2010

### Construction:

The nacelle for the wind turbine is on site and the soil testing has been completed. In preparing for the foundation, we discussed gravel and excavation with the contractor. While no earth has been moved so far, the contractor is scheduled to begin excavation on October 18. I have a tentative agreement with DOT-Seward for 100+ cubic yards of pit run gravel to be delivered and stockpiled on site as overburden to cover the foundation once it is completed. At this point there is no cost to AVTEC or STG for this gravel, but it will be a while before it arrives. STG's electrical administrator is arriving today to do some measuring and map out the connection from the turbine to the school's power plant. Megan Borger, the project engineer from STG, is scheduled to visit our campus today and look at the site. The City of Seward is holding our project to the city ordinance standards that they have yet to enact, which has created some setback issues. AVTEC Director Fred Esposito will appear before Seward's City Council at their October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the project and related city ordinance.

### Curriculum:

The application time for the instructor position has closed and in the next few days we will look at each applicant's qualifications and make some determinations. Initial observation points to a lack of qualified applicants from inside Alaska, which may necessitate a national applicant search. Due to this condition, our curriculum development is being done by current AVTEC staff members who have backgrounds and experience in the identified areas.

The curriculum for our initial class has been fleshed out and a daily syllabus is in rough draft form. We have two versions in the works. The first one is a three-week operator's class for those persons who have attended our (AVTEC's) power plant and advanced power plant courses, and who are in areas that have (or are obtaining) wind turbines to augment their community power. This is our planned first course offering this spring.

We have another course in progress that is nine weeks long and will include both power plant and wind turbine training. This is intended for an operator who is new to the field and will be starting work in a combined system power plant. Both of these classes are for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the community power system.

One of the major challenges has been the need to safely climb the tower to service the turbine and nacelle of the unit. We have been in contact with several companies who train people and we have one that will train our staff to then train the students. We plan to send our instructor to the “Train the Trainer” course at the soonest opening we can coordinate.

We are working on a third course option for a “Wind Technician” program. In our advisory meeting, we identified the need (although limited at this time) for a person who can go far beyond the day-to-day operation and normal maintenance and be more of a diagnostician. The qualifications fit directly with our Industrial Electricity course with just a few additions. As we explore a restructuring of our program, we will develop a career track within the Industrial Electricity program with an emphasis on wind technology and those competencies. The anticipated length of this program will be approximately 41 weeks. The program development will occur over the next year, with an anticipated offering in August 2011.